

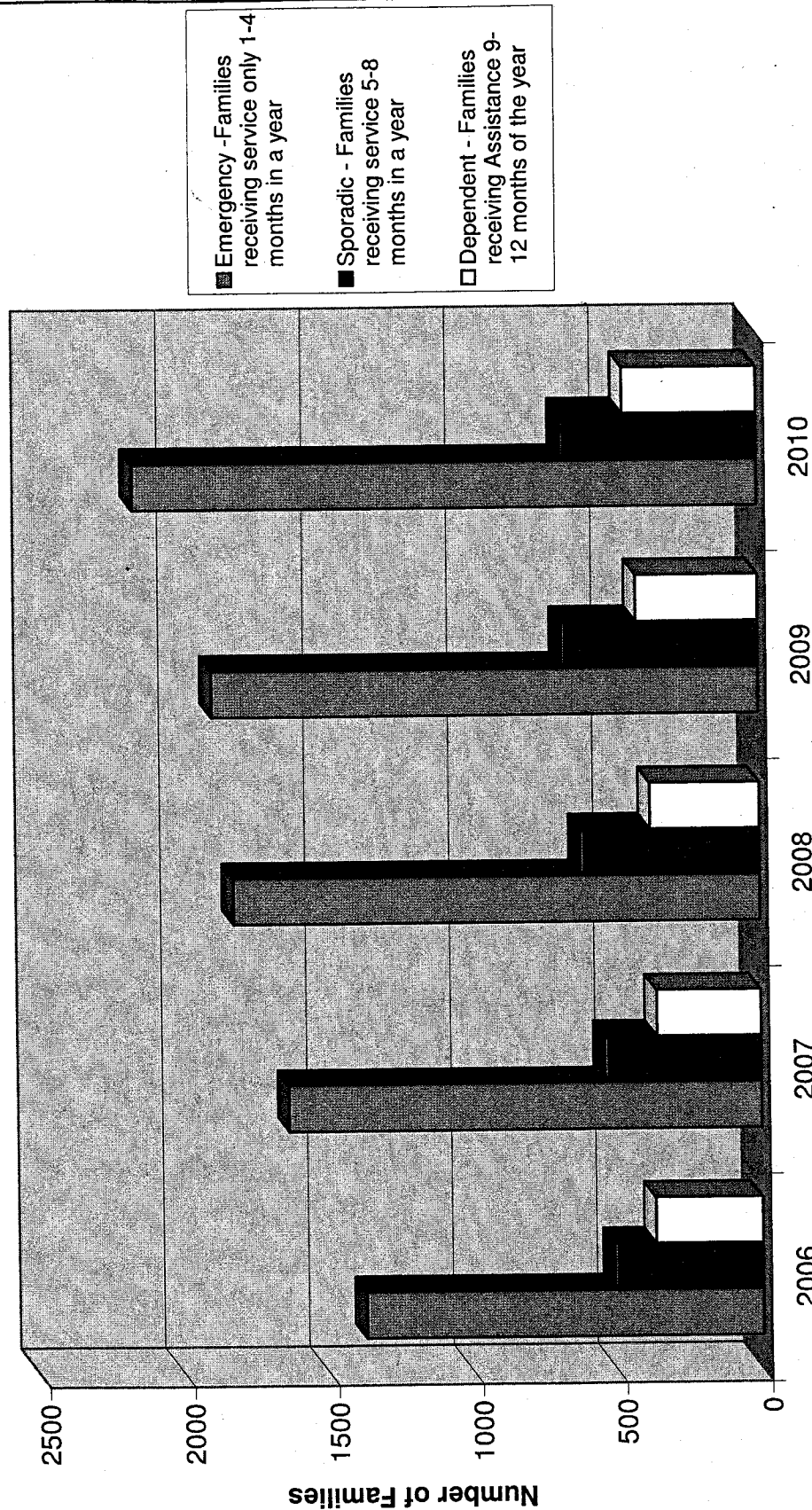


1616 Lewis Street • PO Box 943 • Helena, Montana 59624 • www.helenafoodshare.org • 406.443.3663

## HELENA FOOD SHARE TALKING POINTS HB2 2/2/2011

- (GRAPH) The vast majority of households served by Helena Food Share and similar pantries across the state are NOT abusing the service; they are using the service to meet nutritional needs in their households.
- In December 2010:
  - 63% of households (872 HHs) served came only once in the month;
  - 31% of households (428 HHs) came 2-5x during the month; 241 of this group (20%) only came in twice.
- - **94% of HHs served ask for help only to meet emergency needs in December 2010 - -**
  - 4% (55 HHs) came 6-9 times during the month
  - 2% (27 HHs) came in 10-21 times during the month
- In Calendar Year 2010:
  - 41% (2,159 HHs) received food assistance 1-4 times during the year. These households are only using the pantry to meet emergencies.
  - 13% (678 HHs) are using the pantry sporadically (5-8 times) to help them get through difficult months.
- - **In 2010, 86% (1,855 households requested assistance ONLY in emergency situations -**
  - Many HHs receiving consistent services during the year are living on social security or disability fixed incomes. These households are dependent upon assistance to meet their nutritional needs. Medicaid and/or Medicare are often their source of medical service. Decent nutrition is an important factor to consider as we look at the costs of our medical systems.
  - Approximately 1,200 HHs who requested assistance on an emergency basis (1-4 times) in 2010 had also requested similar assistance in at least one of the prior 4 years. Clearly, these are households with economic challenges who work hard to ask for help only when needed.
  - 2,765 of the families served by Helena Food Share since 2006 (5 years) returned for more assistance at least once in the following years. **Over half of these counted households (1,046) came to Helena Food Share for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in 2010!!**
  - **7% of food distributed through Monthly Groceries in 2010 came to us through the state assistance program. To lose this assistance would severely impact our service to families most in need.**
  - 460 total households were dependent on HFS in 2010– they are served each month, about half of them have been served monthly since 2006 or longer. Of the 6,302 households served overall, this represents 7%. Some of the 84 HHs receive assistance through our mobile pantry.
  - In FY09, HFS spent \$134K on food purchases. In FY2010, HFS spent \$105K in food purchases. These amounts include **paying to process all city deer** and game meat donated without processing included. Over 57% of the food we distribute is donated by the community or by local stores. **As we work to serve the growing numbers, we cannot afford to lose state assistance!**

# 5 Years View of Families' Need for Food Assistance From Helena Food Share



**Number of Families Seeking Food Assistance Broken Down By the  
Number of Visits In December 2010 (Out of 1382 Families Served)**

